

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-12 are presented for consideration, with Claim 1 being independent.

The abstract has been replaced to better set forth technical features of the claimed invention.

In the claims, Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of Claim 3, which has been cancelled. In addition, editorial changes have been made to selected claims.

Initially, Applicant notes with appreciation that Claim 3 is indicated as containing patentable subject matter and will be allowed if placed in independent form. Based on this indication, the features of Claim 3 have been added into Claim 1.

Claims 4-12 were objected to for being in improper multiple dependent claim form. In response, the claims have been amended to overcome this rejection.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Bernkopf '133. Without conceding to the propriety of this rejection, Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of Claim 3, as discussed above. Accordingly, this rejection is deemed to be moot and should be withdrawn.

Therefore, it is submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claim 1 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 2 and 4-12 set forth additional features of Applicant's invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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